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Elementary teacher wins Strongman championship

Willie Wessels, an elementary physical education teacher from Briar Crest Elementary School in the Pattonville School District, recently won the lightweight division of the U.S. Strongman Championships in Arlington, Texas.

Winning the competition earned Wessels, who two years ago was diagnosed with acute leukemia, a spot in the “World’s Strongest Man” world championship competition, set for Nov. 27 in Finland.

While undergoing treatment for cancer, Wessels continued efforts to work out and eventually rebuilt his strength to compete. Along the way, he earned a spot on the David Letterman show, displaying feats of strength that included lifting a riding lawn mower. During the recent competition, Wessels dragged an 800-pound sled, flipped an 800-pound tire and squatted an SUV.

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